

(d) The procuring agency contracting officer responsible for the procurement affected by a size determination.

§ 134.303 No absolute right to an appeal from a size determination.

It is within the discretion of the Judge whether to accept an appeal from a size determination. If the Judge decides not to consider such an appeal, he or she will issue an order denying review, and specifying the reasons for the decision.

§ 134.304 Commencement of appeals from size determinations and SIC code designations.

(a) Appeals from size determinations and SIC code designations must be commenced by serving and filing an appeal petition as follows:

(1) If appeal is from a size determination in a pending procurement or pending Government property sale, then the appeal petition must be served and filed within 15 days after service of the size determination;

(2) If appeal is from a size determination other than one in a pending procurement or pending Government property sale, then the appeal petition must be served and filed within 30 days after service of the size determination;

(3) If appeal is from a SIC code designation, then the appeal petition must be served and filed within 10 days after the issuance of the initial invitation for bids or initial request for proposals or quotations.

(b) An untimely appeal will be dismissed. However, an appeal which is untimely under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, with respect to a pending procurement or sale, may, if timely under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, proceed with respect to future procurements or sales.

§ 134.305 The appeal petition.

(a) *Form.* There is no required format for an appeal petition. However, it must include the following information:

(1) The Area Office which issued the size determination, or the contracting office which designated the SIC code;

(2) The solicitation or contract number, and the name, address, and tele-

phone number of the contracting officer;

(3) A full and specific statement as to why the size determination or SIC code designation is alleged to be in error, together with argument supporting such allegations; and

(4) The name, address, telephone number, and signature of the appellant or its attorney.

(b) *Service of size determination appeals.* The appellant must serve the appeal petition upon each of the following:

(1) The SBA official who issued the size determination;

(2) The contracting officer responsible for the procurement affected by a size determination;

(3) The business concern whose size status is at issue;

(4) All persons who filed protests; and

(5) SBA's Office of General Counsel.

(c) *Service of SIC appeals.* The appellant must serve the contracting officer who made the SIC code designation.

(d) *Certificate of service.* The appellant must attach to the appeal petition a signed certificate identifying each person or governmental agency which was served with the notice of appeal, and how and when each of those persons or governmental agencies was served.

(e) *Dismissal.* An appeal petition which does not contain all of the information required in paragraph (a) of this section may be dismissed, with or without prejudice, by the Judge at his or her own initiative, or upon motion of a respondent.

§ 134.306 Transmission of the case file.

Upon receipt of an appeal petition pertaining to a size determination, the Area Office which issued the size determination must immediately send to OHA the entire case file relating to that determination. Upon receipt of an appeal petition pertaining to a SIC code designation, the contracting officer who designated the SIC code must immediately send to OHA the solicitation relating to that designation.

§ 134.307 Service and filing requirements.

The provisions of § 134.204 apply to the service and filing of all pleadings

§ 134.308

and other submissions permitted under this subpart.

§ 134.308 Limitation on new evidence and adverse inference from non-submission in appeals from size determinations.

(a) Evidence not previously presented to the Area Office which issued the size determination being appealed will not be considered by a Judge unless:

(1) The Judge, on his or her own initiative, orders the submission of such evidence; or

(2) A motion is served and filed establishing good cause for the submission of such evidence.

(b) If the submission of evidence is ordered by a Judge, and the party in possession of that evidence does not submit it, the Judge may draw adverse inferences against that party.

§ 134.309 Response to an appeal petition.

(a) *Who may respond.* Any person served with an appeal petition, or any other interested person, may serve and file a response supporting or opposing the appeal. The response should present argument.

(b) *Time limits.* Unless otherwise specified by the Judge, a respondent must serve and file a response within 10 days after service of the appeal petition upon it.

(c) *Service.* The respondent must serve its response upon the appellant and upon each of the persons identified in the certificate of service attached to the appeal petition pursuant to § 134.305.

(d) *Reply to a response.* No reply to a response will be permitted unless the Judge directs otherwise.

§ 134.310 Discovery.

Discovery will not be permitted in appeals from size determinations or SIC code designations.

§ 134.311 Oral hearings.

Oral hearings will not be held in appeals from SIC code designations, and will be held in appeals from size determinations only upon a finding by the Judge of extraordinary circumstances. If such an oral hearing is ordered, the proceeding shall be conducted in ac-

13 CFR Ch. I (1–1–99 Edition)

cordance with those rules of subpart B of this part as the Judge deems appropriate.

§ 134.312 Evidence.

To the extent the rules in this subpart permit the submission of evidence, the provisions of § 134.223 (a) and (b) apply.

§ 134.313 Applicability of subpart B provisions.

The following sections from subpart B of this part apply to an appeal under this subpart C: § 134.207(a) (pertaining to amendments to pleadings); § 134.208 (Representation in cases before OHA); § 134.209 (Requirement of signature); § 134.210 (Intervention); § 134.211 (Motions); § 134.214 (Subpoenas); § 134.218 (Judges); § 134.219 (Sanctions); and § 134.220 (Prohibition against *ex parte* communications).

§ 134.314 Standard of review.

The standard of review is whether the size determination or SIC code designation was based on clear error of fact or law.

§ 134.315 The record.

Where relevant, the provisions of § 134.225 (a), (b), and (c) apply. In an appeal under this subpart, the contents of the record also include the case file or solicitation submitted to OHA in accordance with § 134.306.

§ 134.316 The decision.

(a) *Contents.* Following closure of the record, the Judge will issue a decision containing findings of fact and conclusions of law, reasons for such findings and conclusions, and any relief ordered.

(b) *Finality.* The decision is the final decision of the SBA and becomes effective upon issuance.

(c) *Service.* OHA will serve a copy of all written decisions on:

(1) Each party, or, if represented by counsel, on its counsel; and

(2) SBA's General Counsel, or his or her designee, if SBA is not a party.

§ 134.317 Termination of jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction of OHA will terminate upon the issuance of a decision.